

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040548
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03
ACDA-10 OES-02 SP-02 PRS-01 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI
APPROVED BY T:JSNYE
NEA:ADUBS
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
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R 232120Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040548

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: CALL ON DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR
SECURITY ASSISTANCE BY INDIAN DCM: TARAPUR

1. INDIAN DCM VENKATESWARAN ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY
RAJAN CALLED ON DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY NYE FEB 18.
AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES (VENKATESWARAN WAS A
STUDENT OF NYE'S AT HARVARD), DCM TURNED THE DISCUSSION TO
THE TARAPUR QUESTION SAYING THAT THE INDIANS FELT THEY HAD
BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH INFORMATION BUT HAD NOTED LITTLE FOR-
WARD MOVEMENT BY THE U.S. AND WERE GROWING CONCERNED. NYE
SAID THAT THE DELAY WAS NOT LIMITED TO INDIA, BUT BECAUSE
A MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW WAS UNDERWAY, VIRTUALLY ALL
NUCLEAR MATTERS WERE BEING HELD UP. HE EXPECTED THAT THE
REVIEW WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. HE EMPHA-
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PAGE 02 STATE 040548

SIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION FELT THAT THERE WAS NEED TO
ESTABLISH AN OVERALL POLICY FRAMEWORK BEFORE DEALING WITH
SPECIFIC CASES SUCH AS TARAPUR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE
PRESIDENT REGARDS NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AS AN ISSUE
OF GREAT SERIOUSNESS.

2. STATING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS SINCE

THE NUCLEAR REVIEW HAD NOT YET REACHED A STAGE WHERE DIRECTIONS WERE FIRM, NYE SAID THAT THE TARAPUR QUESTION

SHOULD NOT, IN HIS VIEW, BE HANDLED IN ISOLATION FROM THE OVERALL NON-PROLIFERATION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDIA. SOME IN THE U.S. FELT THAT INDIA SHOULD BE "PUNISHED"; OTHERS THOUGHT THIS WAS THE WRONG APPROACH. NYE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE U.S. AND INDIA COULD HAVE SERIOUS AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON LARGER NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES. IF WE COULD DEAL SATISFACTORILY WITH THESE QUESTIONS, NYE THOUGHT THE TARAPUR PROBLEM WOULD FALL INTO PLACE RELATIVELY EASILY. WITH REGARD TO THE TARAPUR PROBLEM, NYE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME CONFLICTING VIEWS IN THE U.S. ON TECHNICAL FACTS, SUCH AS THE DETAILS OF THE FUEL SUPPLY PIPELINE AND THE STORAGE SITUATION. WE MIGHT WANT TO DISCUSS THESE FURTHER WITH THE INDIANS TO BE SURE THAT EVERYBODY AGREED ON THE FACTS.

3. VENKATESWARAN SAID THAT THE INDIANS CONSIDERED THEY HAVE BEEN MORE THAN FORTHCOMING WITH REGARD TO QUESTIONS OF FACTS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH US. HE THEN REVIEWED INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY ALONG TRADITIONAL GOI LINES -- THEY HAD NOT SIGNED THE NPT BECAUSE IT WAS "DIS-CRIMINATORY," THEIR POLICY WAS NOT TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, ETC., ETC. NYE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED INDIAN POLICY STATEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE, BUT STATED THAT HE MUST "PREDICT" THAT THE EFFECT OF A SECOND INDIAN TEST, WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION, ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND THE CONGRESS WOULD BE TO FORESTALL FURTHER FUEL SHIPMENTS
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PAGE 03 STATE 040548

TO TARAPUR. NYE STRESSED HE WAS MAKING A PREDICTION NOT A POLICY STATEMENT.

4. THE SESSION ENDED WITH NYE REITERATING THE SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. AND THE INDIANS GET TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON FOR PRIVATE EXCHANGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SEE IF WE COULD REACH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY APPROACH ON BROADER NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES. VENKATESWARAN SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THE INDIAN SIDE WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR REACTORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE040548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKUX:EI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770063-0950
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770216/aaaaaojl.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c51c61c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3249477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE BY INDIAN DCM: TARAPUR
TAGS: TECH, IN, US
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c51c61c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009